



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFFERSON COUNTY
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April 18, 2011

Dear County Board Members:

This past year was again marked by numerous high profile criminal cases that grabbed front page headlines. In 2010, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office closed six homicide cases involving nine different homicide victims. The oldest, and perhaps most notorious homicide case of 2010, was probably that of Edward Edwards, a man who literally got away with several murders for 30 years. The ability to link Edwards to the murders of Tim Hack and Kelly Drew was the result of persistence, technological advancements and the coordinated efforts among numerous agencies both within and outside of Wisconsin. To be able to convict Edwards of these homicides before he died will hopefully bring the Hack and Drew families some measure of peace, even though it can never bring their loved ones back.

The Jefferson County District Attorney's Office strives to treat victims of all criminal activity with dignity, respect and tireless commitment. To be able to balance our demanding caseload, we know that we have to do more with less. This office is fortunate to have attorneys and support staff who are willing to put in the extra time and effort not just to get the job done, but to do it right.

For the attorneys in this office, this is not a 40-hour a week job. The attorneys put in countless extra hours each week in order to keep pace with new criminal and juvenile referrals and their challenging caseload, often taking work home at night and working over the weekends. This has become a necessity in light of the recent reductions in the District Attorney program's budget. As Board Members may be aware, the State of Wisconsin is short nearly 120 prosecutors needed to handle the current volume of criminal cases and referrals in this state. Jefferson County in particular is understaffed by 2.4 prosecutors. Despite this shortfall and demanding caseload, the Department of Administration required District Attorneys throughout the State to implement five "temporary lay-off days" for each full-time Assistant District Attorney for 2009 and 2010. To make matters worse, prosecutors recently received notification that permanent layoffs may occur unless Assistant District Attorneys agree to take six additional lay-off days by June 18, 2011. This would be disastrous for our efforts to protect the public. We continue to appeal to elected officials for adequate prosecutor staffing in Jefferson County and throughout the State of Wisconsin so that we may continue to ensure that the law-abiding citizens of Jefferson County are adequately represented by the state in criminal courts, juvenile court and traffic court.

As I indicated in my previous two years' annual reports, fiscal responsibility and efficiency have always been of great importance to me, and this has continued as budgetary constraints have intensified at the state, county and local levels. To that end, our office has continued to strive to reduce expenditures. Attached to this annual report you will find a summary of the cost savings that have resulted from our cost saving measures, and as a result of the coordinated paper service arrangement with the Sheriff's Department. As you can see from that attachment, the net savings to the County as a result of these continuing cost-saving efforts was \$82,628.00, approximately 12% under our projected budget.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your District Attorney for 2010, and I look forward to continuing to work together with you to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Happ".

Susan Happ
District Attorney

**2010 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
JEFFERSON COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



The office of the District Attorney is created under Chapter 978 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The department represents the people of the State of Wisconsin and County of Jefferson in the courts. The District Attorney and staff prosecute state criminal matters, forfeiture actions, state and County traffic code and ordinance violations. Department of Natural Resources violations and juvenile cases. The District Attorney also provides education to law enforcement through yearly inservice training.

The District Attorney oversees the First Offender Program, which diverts defendants out of the formal court process. The First Offender Program Director meets with individual offenders and develops a personalized contract. The length and conditions of the contract depend on the nature and seriousness of the offense, his or her adjustment, treatment needs and need for supervision. The First Offender Program Director then monitors the offender to assure that he or she is following through on their contract conditions.

The District Attorney also operates the Victim/Witness Program which provides statutory and constitutionally mandated support to victims and witnesses of crime. The primary purpose of the Victim/Witness program is to provide information, referral and support to citizens and law enforcement officers who have been victims or witnesses to crimes, and to ensure that the services mandated under Chapter 950, Wisconsin Statutes, are made available to them.

The District Attorney's office consists of 1 District Attorney and 4.2 Assistant District Attorney's who are state employees. County employees include the Office Manager, Justice Information Sharing Coordinator, 5.5 legal secretaries, Receptionist/Legal Secretary, Victim/Witness Coordinator, .5 Victim/Witness Secretary, paralegal and First Offender Program Director.

REFERRALS

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Felonies	687	608	551
Misdemeanors	1273	1137	956
Delinquencies	385	309	283
JIPS (Juvenile In Need of Protection or Services)	42	40	51
CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services)	315	248	332
TPR (Termination of Parental Rights)	1	2	0
Juvenile FO's (Immunizations)	5	11	2
Criminal Traffic	970	667	475

FILINGS

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Felonies	501	495	375
Misdemeanors	730	798	537
Criminal Traffic	957	659	464
Forfeiture Traffic	517	491	513
Other Forfeitures	40	106	94
Civil	31	13	15
Delinquencies & Jips	187	129	123
CHIPS	63	62	58
TPR	1	2	0
Juvenile Forfeitures	3	7	2

FIRST OFFENDER PROGRAM

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Persons Accepted	324	137	123
Persons in program as of end of year	181	92	90
Persons who completed program	245	175	105
Fees collected	\$63,573.71	\$63,913.06	\$40,556.00

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Contacts	1665	4087 *	3450 *
Witness Cancellations	1447	1299 **	1567 **
Officer Cancellations	1602	2634 ***	1997 ***

*This number includes all contacts (phone, personal, mail) not just initial contacts as in previous years.

**More efficient subpoena procedures have resulted in fewer subpoenas being served therefore saving the county witness and service fees

***Officer cancellations result in less overtime paid by departments

2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

The following chart shows a comparison of the budgeted versus actual finances:

<u>2010 Budget</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>
728,945	646,317

A net savings of **\$82,628**

The majority of savings is reflected in PAPER SERVICE. Paper service is used for serving any legal document.

Paper Service savings: **\$43,841**

The savings reflected above is a result of the District Attorney's Office sending out significantly fewer subpoenas for service, which directly corresponds to lower paper service expenses, decreased inconvenience to victims and witnesses, and a reduction in officer overtime. Additionally, the coordinated efforts of the District Attorney's Office and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in paper service allows the Sheriff's Office to serve subpoenas and summonses, resulting in revenue for the Sheriff's Office while charging the District Attorney's Office a reduced rate. The collaborative effort between our agencies has resulted in significant cost savings to county taxpayers at a time of extreme financial difficulty.